The king has died
This is now yours, Tamaur.
Hereforth, you are the king.

RUNE

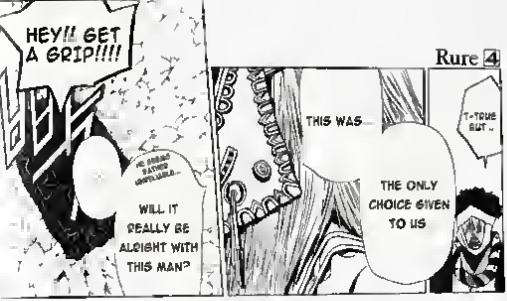
...
... IMPRISONED AGAIN, EH?
... BAR CELLS OF THORN?

AND HANDCUFFS TOO...
MASA...
I THOUGHT YOU AT LEAST WOULD NEVER CHANGE BUT...
"TAMAUR, MY CUTE TAMAUR..."
"I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, TAMAUR."
DAMNIT!!
I GAVE UP MY RANK, MY IDENTITY MY HERITAGE
NOW THEY WANT ME TO GIVE UP MY LIFE AS WELL?
SFX: THUMP

SHOULD I...
HAVE KILLED THEM...
AFTER ALL?
URGH...
KILLED MY BROTHERS... WITH MY OWN HANDS?
OW... MY HEAD HURTS...
Nauseous too...
Am I in hell?
CLANK
WHAT'S GOING -
EH? HANDCUFFS?! WHERE IS THIS? A PRISON?! WHY?
...HARU?

MASTER?
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT ABOUT CHIAKI AND MIRU?
DUNNO. I JUST WOKE UP TOO.
BUT I KNOW FOR SURE WE'RE IMPRISONED
NO SHIT SHERLOCK! HOW ABOUT SOME PLANS?
WHAT PLANS?
BREAK OUT NEGOTIATION BLACKMAIL ETC.
NO.
I GUESS ESCAPING COMES FIRST~♡
TOO MUCH WORK

TOO MUCH WORK!? WE'RE IN PRISON HERE! TRAPPED! IMPRISONED! KIDNAPPED!! WE HAVE TO ESCAPE!!!
WHY? IT'S ONLY BOTHERSOME OUTSIDE. THIS PLACE IS COMFORTABLE. IT'S PARADISE
WHAT ABOUT CHAKI? HE'S SO FAITHFUL TO YOU! AND THE RINSA TRIBE!?
I NEVER TOLD THEM TO FOLLOW ME.
ARGH! THIS MASTER'S ROTTEN!! HE'S AS USELESS AS A SACK OF POTATOES AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
DO SOME-THING! PLEASE!


HEY!! GET A GRIP!!!!
WILL IT REALLY BE ALRIGHT WITH THIS MAN?
THIS WAS...
THE ONLY CHOICE GIVEN TO US
T-TRUE BUT..

SFX: PUNCH

WE COULD NOT HAVE EVEN DREAMT OF GETTING THIS FAR WITHOUT LADY MASA'S HELP
WE CAN ONLY REPAY HER BY GRATEFULLY USING THIS OPPORTUNITY

REMEMBER, THIS MAN WILL BECOME THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR PLANS.
BUT SHOULDN'T WE STOP THEM?
WE MIGHT DIE

SFX: CLINK
EH, IT'S ALL TOO BOTHERSOME
BUT I'LL THINK ABOUT IT IF YOU'LL ENTERTAIN ME.*
SMILE
*NOTE: HE SAYS THIS PLAYFULLY
SFX: FONDLE x2
W-W-WHAT'RE YOU DOING!!?
ISN'T OBVIOUS? WHAT ELSE WOULD MEN AND WOMEN DO IN DARK PLACES?
EEK! ARE YOU CRAZY? KYAK! KYAK! STAY AWAY!
PLEASE.. JUST A BIT STAY LIKE THIS
...JUST FOR A BIT.
N-NO!! THIS...!! KYAA!!

JUST FOR A MOMENT...
KUYA...
THAT FACT WE'VE BEEN CAPTURED
MUST MEEN MISS MAYA BETRAYED HIM...

HE WAS SO HAPPY
TO SEE HER AGAIN, TOO
KUYA...
PP
PP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STROKE STROKE
HUH? COMFORTING YOU, I GUESS?
WHEN MY DOG FEELS DOWN, HE ALWAYS PERKS UP AFTER BEING PETTED
AM I A PET?
DO YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF SELF PRESERVATION? WHAT IF I REALLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOU?
LIAR YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT
I see.

YOU JUST NEED SOMEONE, RIGHT?
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW YOUR PAST
WHO YOU AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR
WHO DOESN'T DESIRE ANYTHING OF YOURS
SOMEONE TO EASILY SHARE YOUR WARMTH WITH
SO IT'S OKAY

BECAUSE I'M NOT FROM THIS WORLD...
I'M JUST AN INSIGNIFICANT...
SHE'S... DISAPPEARING?
OUTSIDER...

NO! HARU SHIN!!
HARU!!
SFX CLUNK
MASTER...?

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT DISAPPEAR...
K... KUYA?
SFX: SLAM
LIKE AN ILLUSION, LIKE THE DAY SHE APPEARED—
I WAS AFRAID THAT SHE'D DISAPPEAR—
KU –
W, WAIT?

WELCOME, DOBUE PRINCE OF PANU. I AM ANGOR, THE HEAD OF THE KANTAVA TRIBE. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ROUGH GREETING.
HARU SHIN! WHEREBE YOU GOING? WHY'RE YOU RUNNING AWAY? COME OVER HERE!
GO AWAY!! YOU'RE CRAZY!! I'M CRAZY!!!! TO HAVE LOST MY JUDGEMENT AND FEELING SORRY FOR YOU!!!
SO PLEASE FORGIVE.
STAY AWAY!!! ONE STEP CLOSER AND YOU'RE GETTING A LEVEL 2 SIDE KICK!!
*NOTE: A KOREAN PROVERB THAT MEANS ALL MEN ARE PERVERTS
MY BROTHER SAID ALL MEN ARE WOLVES* BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE SAME!! DISGUSTING! STAY AWAY!!!
WHAT'D I DO!? JUST COME OVER HERE. I JUST WANT TO SEE SOMETHING! I WON'T DO ANYTHING! I SWEAR! YOU REALLY CAN'T TRUST ME THAT MUCH? REALLY?
?, DO SOMETHING? HELP HARU SHIN, YOU - !!!
* PLEASE WILL YOU LISTEN...

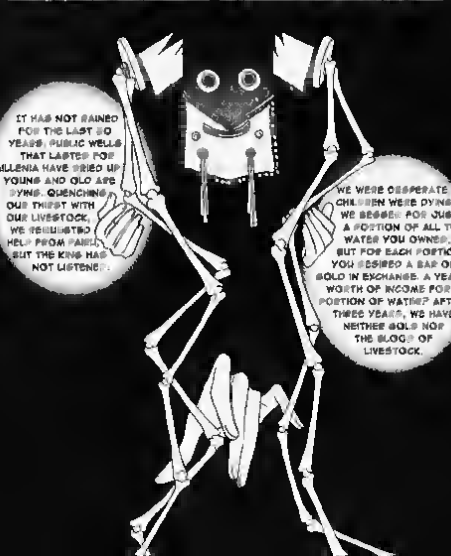
STAY OUTTA THIS, FUZZ-MASK! I WANT HER, NOT YOU!!
OH MY...
...YOU...
...YOU...
...MASTER... YOU'RE A COMPLETE...

Arm
AL!!

SO IT WAS YOU?
...MAY I SPEAK NOW?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING VIOLENT!! YOU'RE THE PERVERT HERE!!
THE SENSELESS FOOL WHO SHUT ME IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THIS VIOLENT WENCH!
SFX: PUNCH

I AM ANEOR, HEAD OF THE KANTARA TRIBE WE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MEET YOU
OUR TRIBE IS IN A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. AND ONLY ONE OF ROYALTY SUCH AS YOU CAN HELP US
WE HAVE TAKEN YOUR TWO FRIENDS HOSTAGE. SO WE HOPE YOU WILL LISTEN TO OUR REQUEST
.....
...HMPH. HOSTAGES AND THREATS....
HOW VERY BECOMING OF A TRIBE RENOWN FOR ITS BANDITRY
SFX: CLANK
THE INTRO IS TOO LONG! GET TO THE POINT ALREADY.

WE DESIRE PARIU'S WATER.


IT HAS NOT RAINED FOR THE LAST 80 YEARS. PUBLIC WELLS THAT LASTED FOR MILLENIA HAVE DRIED UP. YOUNG AND OLD ARE DYING. QUENCHING OUR THIRST WITH OUR LIVESTOCK, WE REQUESTED HELP FROM PARIU, BUT THE KING HAS NOT LISTENED.
WE WERE DESPERATE. CHILDREN WERE DYING. WE BEGGED FOR JUST A PORTION OF ALL THE WATER YOU OWNED. BUT FOR EACH PORTION YOU DESIRED A BAR OF GOLD IN EXCHANGE. A YEAR'S WORTH OF INCOME FOR A PORTION OF WATER? AFTER THREE YEARS, WE HAVE NEITHER GOLD NOR THE BLOOD OF LIVESTOCK.

THIS IS A WARNING, PRINCE. IF YOU VALUE YOUR FRIENDS' LIVES, GIVE US PAIRU'S WATER. OTHERWISE, WE WILL QUENCH OUR THIRST WITH YOUR FRIENDS' BLOOD.
...AND IF I REFUSE?
!!

IF NOT WATER, BLOOD IT WILL HAVE TO BE.
SFX: SHINE
DECIDE, PRINCE. WE ARE THIRSTY.

SFX: SHOVE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME A DRIED UP CORPSE IN THE DESERT, THEN YOU'D BETTER START PRAYING! HAHAHA!
YOU BASTARD!!
HAPU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
STOP YATTERING, HOSTAGE! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, THEN HOPE THAT THE PRINCE WILL COME BACK WITH WATER!!

MIRU!!
YOU'RE SAFE!! MIRU! UWAH - THANK GOODNESS!
..WHAT ABOUT LORD KUYA? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM FOR YOU TO COME IN ALONE?
hug
I WAS SO WORRIED - MIRU...

AH..!
MIPU
—KUYA WENT BACK TO THE PALACE.
IN ORDER TO SAVE US...

WHAT... DID YOU SAY?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!! LORD KUYA!!!
GAURD!! OPEN UP THE GATES!!

HURRY AND OPEN THE GATES!
IT'S HIS HIGHNESS TAMAUR!
TAMAUR? THAT EXILED PRINCE? I'D HEARD RUMORS THAT HE'D RETURNED, SEEMS LIKE IT'S REALLY TRUE
I ONLY WISH HE DOESN'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO
OUR TRIBE'S SPIES ARE HIDDEN EVERYWHERE INSIDE THIS PALACE. IF YOU JUST HAND OVER THE WATER THEN THIS KID AS WELL AS THE TWO LADIES
WILL NOT HAVE A SINGLE HAIR ON THEIR HEADS HARMED. BUT IF YOU DON'T, I TRUST YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN
IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FUNNY THEN CONSIDER THIS KID'S LIFE GONE.
YOUR MASTER IS NAIVE OID YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT ROYALTY KEEP TO THEIR PROMISES?
NOT AT ALL
AND THAT IS WHY WE'RE KEEPING HOSTAGES

...AND THAT IS WHY I AM SAYING THAT YOUR TRIBE IS NAIVE
HMPH! THERE IS NO USE TRYING TO PROVOKE !
YOUR HIGHNESS!!! YOU'VE ARRIVED AT LAST!!
HEARTLESS

HIGHNESS, IT'S ME! THE GIANT MOULTA! IT'S YOUR FAITHFUL AXE, MOULTA!!
Rattle
Rattle
NO, LORD MOULTA! THE CARRIAGE WILL BREAK!!
NO!! EVERYBODY HANG ONTO LORD MOULTA!! DEFEND THE CARRIAGE!!
Slam
UWAAAA!!! WHAT IS THIS! HIS HIGHNESS ISN'T HERE!!
IS THAT REALLY A HUMAN?

WELCOME BACK YOUR HIGHNESS
BASH
AH. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
MOVE ASIDE!! WHERE DID YOU HIDE MY LIEGE!!?
MY LIEGE--!!
Roar
BASH
"SOS"!! MY LIEGE!! I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS REUNION!! WHERE ARE YOU!!
THE KING HAS SOUGHT YOU MANY TIMES.
..YEAH.
YOU'VE RETURNED, YOUR STUBBORN HIGHNESS.

WERE YOUR DAYS OF FREEDOM ENJOYABLE?

..I ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH HILDESS SO MUCH THAT I WISHED NOT TO RETURN
HO~ WHAT A PITY SINCE IT'S SOUND TO BE YOUR LAST VENTURE OUT...

..WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT HILDESS

Yuuri
Highness!

STEP
SMASH
OH, BY THE WAY I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK -
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS?
IT'S A SEAL, AND A VERY STRONG ONE AT THAT -
AND I HAVE THE FEELING IT DEFINITELY WASN'T MADE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS
THEY SAID IT'S TO "PREVENT ME FROM ESCAPING. CAN YOU CRACK IT?
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT IT WAS AN ABDUCTION INSTEAD OF AN OUTING?
IT'S NOT "WAS." I'M STILL UNDER ABDUCTION
YOUR HIGHNESS! YOU'RE TOO CRUEL! YOU'RE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THAT RASCAL INSTEAD OF YOUR FAITHFUL AXE MOULTA!! I'M HURT! HURT!
AND YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS SUSPICIOUS THING WITH YOU!! JUST WHO IS THIS CREATURE!?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE MANHANDLING!? PUT ME DOWN AT ONCE!!

I AM PRINCE TAMAUR'S GUEST! PRINCE! PLEASE TELL HIM TO TREAT ME WITH RESPECT AT ONCE!! GET THIS BEAR-LIKE MAN AWAY FROM ME!!
YOU WERE ABDUCTED BY AN IDIOT LIKE THAT? YOUR STANDARDS HAVE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE WE LAST MET
I NEVER ASKED FOR YOUR SERVICE
BUT EVEN I THINK IT'S A BIT PITIFUL OF ME
WHEREVER THEY ARE FROM THEY APPEAR TO BE INCREDIBLY NAIVE
AH! MOLLTA! KEEP A GOOD HOLD ON HIM SO WE CAN TORTURE HIM LATER
AS YOU COMMAND, YOUR HIGHNESS!
PARDON ME, BUT I WOULD LIKE SERVO TO HAVE LESS SERVO A FOOL.
I DON'T WANT A SERVANT LIKE YOU, EITHER.
W-WAIT! TORTURE!? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR POSITION, PRINCE!? WE HAVE HOSTAGES!!
IF YOU LAY A FINGER ON ME, THE TWO WOMEN WILL IMMEDIATELY BE THROWN OUT INTO THE DESERT! WE'LL REALLY KILL THEM!!

DO AS YOU LIKE.
ROYAL HONOR ISN'T AS CHEAP AS TO BOW DOWN BECAUSE OF SOME SLAVES MOREOVER, THEY DESERVE TO DIE FOR ENDANGERING THEIR MASTER'S LIFE.
IF THERE IS A MEMBER OF THE KANTAGA TRIBE PRESENT HERE, PASS THIS MESSAGE ON TO YOUR CHIEF "RINSE YOUR THROAT AND WAIT. CHIEF, YOUR WHOLE TRIBE WILL PAY WITH THEIR LIVES FOR YOUR CRIME OF DISHONORING THE ROYAL FAMILY!!"

WHO IS IT?
SEEING AS HOW THERE ARE EVEN HOSTAGES CAPTURED... WHO TRIED TO USE YOU?

IT WAS MASA.
MASA GAVE ME MORE LOVE THAN MY BIRTH MOTHER, BUT TIME MERCILESSLY SNATCHES AWAY EVEN MY FRIENDS
IF TIME SWALLOWS UP EVEN FRIENDSHIP, THEN HOW CAN I DARE RELY ON LOYALTY FROM MY SERVANTS? I NO LONGER EXPECT ANYTHING.
YOUR HIGHNESS

THAT'S PRECISELY IT!! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!!!
FREEZE
AHH... IT WAS WORTH THE PATIENCE.
IN THIS WORLD, THE STRONG PREY UPON THE WEAK♡ THE MERCILESS LAW OF THE JUNGLE ♡ WE BACKSTAB AND GET BACKSTABBED! ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVE! PUT YOUR FAITH IN OTHERS!? WHY DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING! THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN TRUST IS YOURSELF!
YOU MUST NEVER TRUST US EITHER! PLEASE CONTINUE TO FALL ENDLESSLY INTO THE PIT OF DISTRUST!
O!
THAT'S FIRST TIME ANY HAD THIS TYPE OF ANY.
BUT WELL, IF YOU FIND IT ALL TOO TROUBLE-SOME...

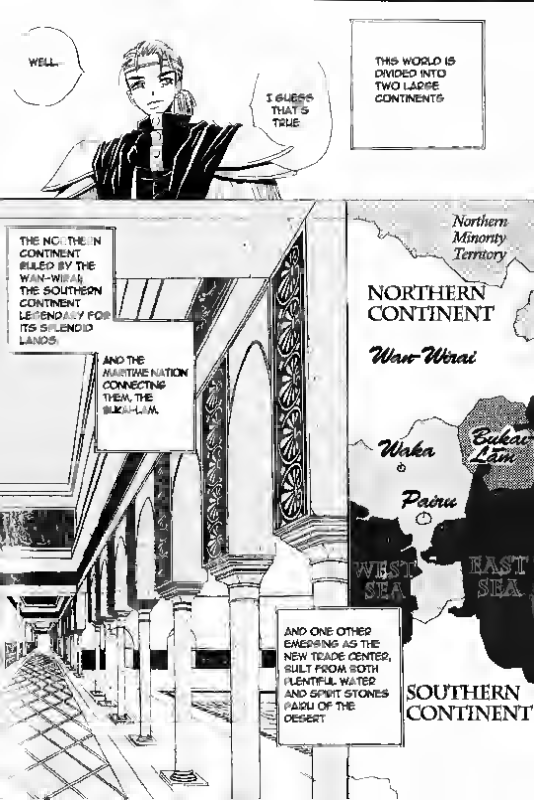
YOU CAN SIMPLY BECOME KING.
——JUST AS I THOUGHT YOU'RE NOT TRUSTWORTHY AT ALL.
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT YOU SWINDLER YOU'VE MADE ME WANT TO GO CLEAN MY EARS!
OH SO YOU'VE REALIZED WHAT AN HONOR HIGHNESS —

.. WHO IS THAT MAN? THE LAD WITH THE BLACK HAIR
YES? OH YOU MEAN HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TAMAKI? HE'S HIS MAJESTY'S YOUNGER BROTHER WHO RETURNED NOT TOO LONG AGO
OH? YOU MEAN THAT EXILED PRINCE?
HOW VERY INTERESTING -

I BID YOU WELCOME TO PAIRU, PRINCESS AZUS.
I'M HONORED TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND EXALTED PERSON
AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREAT WISAI-KUN I THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME TO PAIRU
BUT THIS PLACE IS VERY WONDERFOUL. SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PALACE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT. MAGNIFICENT!
I AM GLAD OUR COUNTRY IS TO YOUR TASTE. COME THIS WAY. WE'VE PREPARED A PLACE FOR YOU TO REST

IT'S HUMBLE BUT PLEASE PASS YOUR TIME HERE IN COMFORT
HOW CAN A SMALL PALACE PERCHED ON A GORGE COMPARE TO WEI'S SPLENDOR?
YOU ARE TOO GENEROUS

whistle
WELL, IF THIS IS CONSIDERED HUMBLE, THEN MY HOUSE WOULD BE A SHED; AND I'M NOT A POOR FELLOW, EITHER.
BUT I'M SURPRISED THAT PRINCE MYULGEN HIMSELF, WIDELY KNOWN AS AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON OF PARIS, CAME OUT TO GREET ME.
HMPH! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! IF THEY COULD, THEY WOULD WILLING TO LICK MY BOOTHEELS RIGHT NOW
THIS MUCH OF A WELCOME OF IS TO BE EXPECTED. IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIS ILLNESS, THE KING HIMSELF WOULD HAVE COME TO GREET ME


WELL...
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE
THIS WORLD IS DIVIDED INTO TWO LARGE CONTINENTS
THE NORTHERN CONTINENT RULED BY THE WAN-WIRAI, THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT LEGENDARY FOR ITS SPLENDID LANDS,
AND THE MARITIME NATION CONNECTING THEM, THE BUKAH-LAM.
AND ONE OTHER EMERGING AS THE NEW TRADE CENTER, BUILT FROM BOTH PLENTIFUL WATER AND SPIRIT STONES PAIRU OF THE DESERT
Northern Minority Territory
NORTHERN CONTINENT
Wan-Wirai
Waka
Bukah Lam
Pairu
WEST SEA
EAST SEA
SOUTHERN CONTINENT

FAIKU, FORMERLY A BORDERLINE COUNTRY OF THE DESERT, USING ITS QUANTITY OF SPIRIT STONES AND WATER AS A FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A LAND ROUTE BETWEEN THE WAN-WEI AND THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT. IT SUPPRESSED THE SUKAI-LAM, WHICH WAS MONOPOLIZING THE TRADE WITH THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT, AND OPENED UP THE GOLDEN AGE. FAIKU FLOURISHED. ALL THE RARE TREASURES AND GOLD GATHERED IN THIS SMALL CITY, AND THE DESERT NO LONGER BELONGED TO JUST THE DEMONS.
POWER BEGET WEALTH,
AND WEALTH GAVE BIRTH TO POWER AGAIN
AND THUS FAIKU BECAME MORE AND MORE POLLUST

[IS PAIRU A SWEET WINE OR DEADLY POISON]

THE WIRAI-KUN HAS YET TO DECIDE

IN THESE DELICATE CIRCUMSTANCES THE VISIT OF PRINCESS AZUS

CARRIED A MEANING THAT WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY -

THIS PLACE IS TO MY LIKING...
PLENTIFUL WATER AND CURIOUS FRUIT. EXOTIC SPICES AND ALL THE GOLD, SILVER, GEMS AND GLASS FROM THE SOUTH.
ON TOP OF THAT, EVEN SPIRIT STONES -
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A RUSTIC COUNTRYSIDE, BUT IT HAS SURPASSED MY EXPECTATIONS
IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE IT BACK TO WIRA WITH ME

I SEE NOW WHY FATHER HAS SENT ME TO THIS PLACE.
I NEED MORE INFORMATION.
YOKAM! CALL FOR ALL OF THE AMBASSADORS IN PAIRU!
UNDER-STOOD!

I WONDER WHAT THE DATE IS?

I'VE LOST TRACK OF TIME SINCE I'VE COME UNDERGROUND. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MIRU SHIN?
.....
NO ANSWER AS USUAL. SHE HASN'T SAID A WORD AFTER MY INITIAL ENTRANCE.
I KNOW WELL FROM EXPERIENCE THAT YOU DISLIKE ME, BUT THIS IS GOING TOO FAR MIRU SHIN.

EVEN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CAN'T BE LONLIER THAN THIS
DAMN!! THIS IS JUST TOO CRUEL!
IF YOU'VE CONFINED SOMEBODY YOU'VE AT LEAST GOT TO FEED THEM!
EVEN THE SLAVE MARKET TREATED ME BETTER!!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!
I'M HUNGRY!! YOU!! GIVE ME SOME FOOD!!!!
I HEAR A DOG BARKING SOMEWHERE
I'M HUNGRY...
AND MOST OF ALL
Grrrowl
Grrrowl
Grrrowl

DO YOU PLAN TO STARVE ME TO DEATH!!? YOU CALL YOURSELVES HUMANS? GIVE ME FOOD!! FOOOOOD!!
DAMNIT! I'M HUNGRY! I'M HUNGRY! I'M HUNGRY!!! THEY SAY EVEN GHOSTS THAT ATE BEFORE THEY DIED GET HUNGRY, SO FEED ME FIRST BEFORE KILLING ME!!!
HOLDS OUT
DID I EAT TOO MUCH? I'VE BEEN FEELING ILL FOR A WHILE NOW
YOU'RE HUNGRY RIGHT? GO ON AND EAT
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD~
..KYAAAA!! MY ANGEL♡
Clang

LUKE!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS "PASHUKA! DID YOU FORGET THE CHIEF'S ORDERS NOT TO GIVE THE HOSTAGES ANY FOOD?
T/N: *PRONOUNCED PASHYOOKA
EVEN HOSTAGES HAVE TO EAT TO LIVE! IF WE WANT TO RECIEVE THE WATER, WE FIRST HAVE TO KEEP THEM ALIVE!!
WE CAN'T WASTE SUPPLIES UNTIL WE'RE SURE THAT THE PRINCE WILL KEEP HIS WORD.
SERIOUSLY? YOU CAN'T BE FOLLOWING FATHER'S RIDICULOUS ORDERS AS WELL?
...THE CHIEF'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE. GO BACK, PASHUKA THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU!!
DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT! THEY'VE DEMOTED YOU A TRIBE WARRIOR INTO A MERE GUARD! FATHER'S GONE CRAZY! HE'S LOST ALL OF THE TRIBE'S PRIDE AND SELF-RESPECT!!
THE CHIEF'S SON? THAT CHILD?

SINCE WHEN DID OUR PROUD KANTARA TRIBE FALL SO LOW?
IF WE'RE HUNGRY, WE CAN HUNT, AND IF WE HAVE NO MONEY, WE CAN TAKE SOME BY FORCE!
BUT BLACKMAILING THE WEAK?
THAT'S NOT THE KANTARA WAY!!
SAY SOMETHING, LUKE!
..I'M NOT A WARRIOR
I'M MERELY A LABORER
YOU KNOW I HAD NOTHING REMOTELY CLOSE TO PRIDE FROM THE START
SMASH
YOU IDIOT!!
..LUKE...
..LUKE...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO HELL!!

Dash
GLITTER GLITTER
UGH~ WHAT A WASTE~
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SPIT THEM ALL OUT?
WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW HIM?
IT SEEMED LIKE THAT CHILD'S FEELINGS WERE HURT...
AS WELL AS YOURS -
..IT HAD TO BE DONE AT SOME POINT

I'M AN ORPHAN WITH STRANGE ORIGINS I CAN'T BECOME A WARRIOR OF THE TRIBE. BUT THAT IDIOT STILL CALLS ME A WARRIOR NOBODY ACKNOWLEDGES IT HE'S BEING UNREASONABLE
THANKS TO THAT, HE'S BEING OSTRACIZED BY THE WHOLE TRIBE WHEN HE SHOULD BE RESPECTED AS THE CHIEF'S SON. SO I'VE GOT TO CUT IT OFF FROM MY SIDE.
...
.WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT WITH A HOSTAGE...

DON'T YOU KNOW? YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF.
I'M A HOSTAGE SO NO ONE WILL LISTEN TO ME. IT'S JUST LIKE TALKING TO A WALL.
SO IT'S LITERALLY SELF-TALK!
KRRR
EH?
EH?
...IT FELL ON THE FLOOR SO I'M THROWING IT AWAY
AND THIS IS SELF-TALK AS WELL.
AH..!

THANK YOU! LOOK MIRU!
IT'S FOOD! FOOD! IT LOOKS LIKE POTATOES BUT IT TASTES LIKE MELON!
LET'S CALL THIS MELON POTATO!
YOU'RE... THAT FISH FROM THAT TIME?

BUT WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY....

T/N: MUSHUK PRONOUNCED MOOSHYOOK

MUSHUK!

MUSHUK!!

WHAT DID YOU BRING BACK TODAY?

Patter patter

IT'S "MUSHUK!" THE SOUND OF MUSHUK'S HORN!!

MUSHUK'S BACK!!

AHAHA!! THAT'S RIGHT KIDS!! MEAT AND CROPS! I'VE BROUGHT BACK LOTS OF SEMS AND PRETTY FABRICS!!

...WHAT ARE THOSE, MUSHUU.
OH! IT'S FATHER AND THE COUNCIL!
I ROBBED A PARTY HEADED TO FAIRU. THEY HAD TONS OF TREASURES AND FOOD! WITH THIS, WE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM GETTING THROUGH THIS YEAR'S OPY SEASON DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CLEANUP I DIDN'T LEAVE A SINGLE MAN ALIVE
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S GROSS! IT'S REALLY GROSS!!
THE CORPSES IN THE SAND! THE LOOT HERE! ISN'T IT PERFECT? EVERYBODY'LL THINK THAT THEY WERE EATEN BY DEMONS HAHAHAHAHA!!!
RETURNING TRADERS BRING STRONG CHARMS AGAINST DEMONS FROM THE SOUTH. BUT STILL ATTACKED BY DEMONS?
YOU THINK THEY WON'T KNOW BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CORPSES AND PACKS? AND YOU CALL YOURSELF MY SUCCESSOR!?
...YOU ROBBED A RETURNING PARTY? ...YOU FOOL!
B-BUT THANKS TO THAT, WE'VE GOTTEN MONEY AND SUPPLIES!
YOU FOOL! IF THEY DISPATCH TROOPS THANKS TO THAT WHO WILL DEAL WITH THAT?

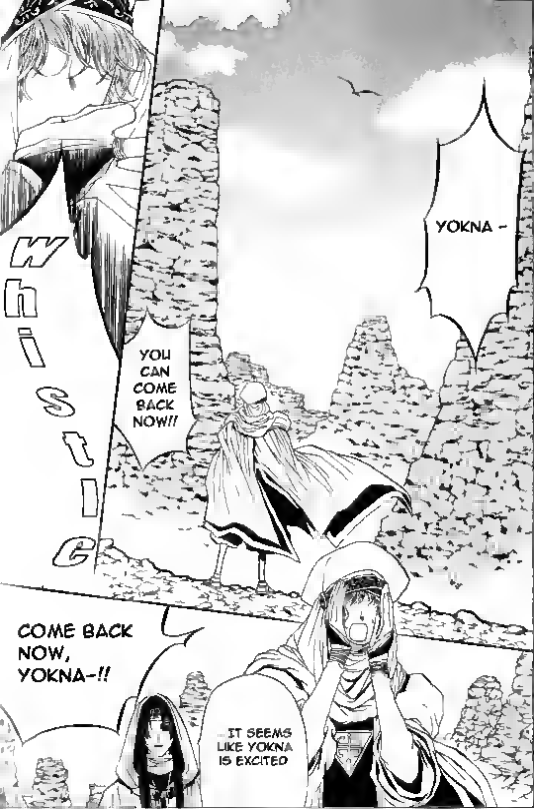
I'M WARNING YOU, MUSHUK. NEXT TIME THERE WILL BE NO FORGIVENESS.

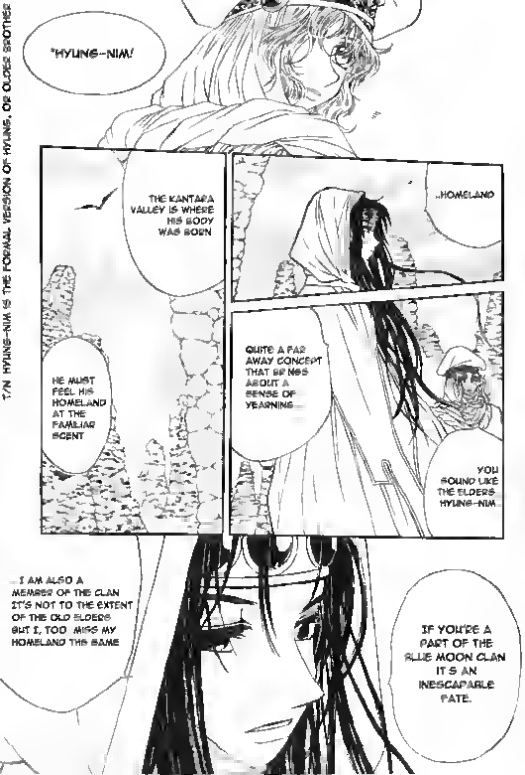
MUSHUK HYUN!!
DAMNIT! STILL OLD GEEZER! HE'LL STILL EAT MY CROPS IN THE END!

WHAT IS IT, FASHUKA?
YOU KNOW WHAT FATHER'S DONE WHILE YOU WERE GONE? HE'S CAPTURED HOSTAGES!

WHAT?
T/N: SCHEISS A TYPICAL SWEAR WORD FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE.
LIKE-"SSH! WHAT'S THAT SOUND? IT SOUNDED LIKE A RUMBLE...
IT'S NOT AN ENEMY ATTACK, IS IT?

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THAT SOUND IS...
OH!! IT'S A FINE WOMAN!!


whistle
YOU CAN COME BACK NOW!!
YOKNA -
COME BACK NOW, YOKNA-!!
IT SEEMS LIKE YOKNA IS EXCITED


T/N HYUNG-NIM IS THE FORMAL VERSION OF HYUNG, OR OLDER BROTHER
"HYUNG-NIM!
IF YOU'RE A PART OF THE BLUE MOON CLAN IT'S AN INESCAPABLE FATE.
...I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CLAN IT'S NOT TO THE EXTENT OF THE OLD ELDERS BUT I, TOO MISS MY HOMELAND THIS SAME
YOU SOUND LIKE THE ELDERS, HYUNG-NIM.
QUITE A FAR AWAY CONCEPT THAT BRINGS ABOUT A SENSE OF YEARNING...
HE MUST FEEL HIS HOMELAND AT THE FAMILIAR SCENT
THE KANTARA VALLEY IS WHERE HIS BODY WAS BORN
...HOMELAND

...I HONESTLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE FEELING
BECAUSE MY HOMELAND IS ZUOIANA.
YOKNA--!! IF YOU DON'T COME DOWN QUICKLY WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!!
IF ONLY I COULD FLY UP LIKE YOKNA AND RETURN THERE...
I'M NOT JOKING!! COME DOWN NOW!!
shuuuuuu

KYAAK!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!
LET GO OF HER!
STOP!! PUT ME DOWN YOU BARBARIAN!!
step
step
step
AHAHA!! WHAT A GREAT DAY!!
YOU VILLAIN! LET MIZU GO!!
MUSHUU! THOSE CHILDREN AREN'T CAPTIVES, THEY'RE HOSTAGES!!

LOOK! WHY WERE YOU HIDING? YOU'VE GOT SUCH A NICE ASS AND BODY!!
I'LL TAKE EXTRA GOOD CARE OF YOU!!
YOU PERVERT!! STOP THAT RIGHT NOW!!
SMACK
Punch
SNORT
HEY, YOU SURE ARE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE FIESTY -

UHAHAHAHA!!
GOOD!! GOOD!!
I LIKE YOU!!
Khahaha
Ehara
Shake shake shake
(LET MIRU GO!!)
GRRR RRR~
WHAT IS THIS?

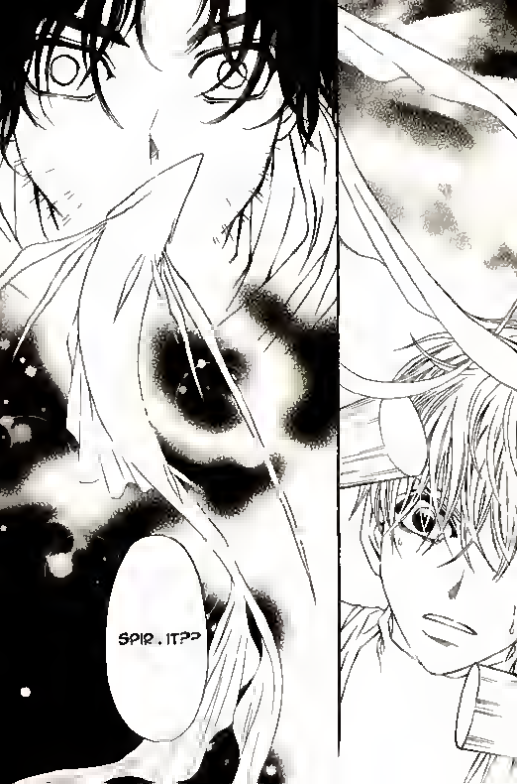
OH I SEE-! SO YOU WANT TO BECOME MY WOMAN TOO? BUT WITH THAT CHEST YOU HAVE NO CHANCE -
KRRK!!
THESE CHILDREN ARE HOSTAGES UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE CHIEF. YOU CAN'T JUST GO AS YOU WISH WITH THEM.
(WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?)
IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF WOMEN, GO LOOK FOR SOME AMONG THE TRIBE'S PRISONERS.
STOP IT, MUSHUK
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING THESE KIDS BACK AFTER USING THEM NICE AND CAREFULLY -
YO - YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB OF KEEPING GUARD, LIKE
JUST STAND GUARD LIKE A GOOD GUARD SHOULD!
PUT THE GIRLS DOWN, MUSHUK

THEY ARE THE CHIEF'S HOSTAGES. I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE TRIBE'S GREATEST WARRIOR OR THE CHIEF'S SON. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE THOSE GIRLS!
THIS IS A WARNING. PUT THAT GIRL DOWN IMMEDIATELY!!

YOU, WHO'S BEEN EVEN CAST AWAY BY THAT CURSED CLAN
A WARNING, EH—
Clang
KUHK
Tremble!
Ll—2—2—!

close
YOU INPUDENT!!
MISTER LUKE!!
clang
clang
AN OUTSIDER LIKE YOU CAN'T LECTURE ME!!
DON'T GET COCKY!! I AM THE TRIBE'S MOST BEST WARRIOR, MUSHUK!!
DIE!!
slice

EH...?


SPIR. IT??

STOP THIS IMMEDIATELY!!

clang

clang

HEY YOU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!! NOT ONLY DO YOU HARRASS MIRU

BUT YOU ATTACK LUKE-SSHI AS WELL?

YOU GUYS ARE FELLOW VILLAGERS!! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!! ISN'T THAT WHAT WARRIORS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO!?
.....
A— RU KIA?
? ? ?
AH?

EEH?
Clatter

WELCOME BACK, MY PRINCE.

MASA...
...HOW COURAGEOUS OF YOU TO DARE APPEAR BEFORE ME. DO YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH?
LEAVE. I'LL LET YOU LIVE FOR OLD TIMES SAKE... DON'T APPEAR BEFORE ME EVER AGAIN!!
LET US GO THE CHA KUN AWAITS US
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM?

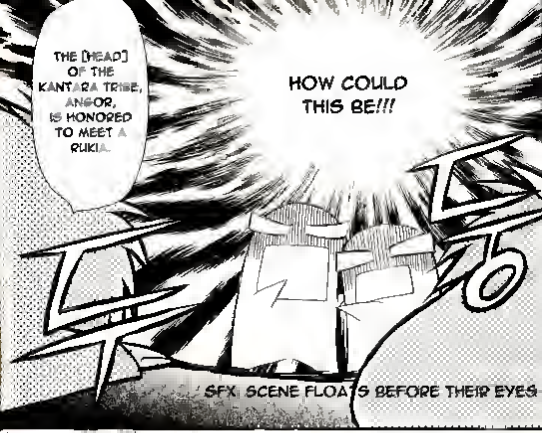
NOT ONLY DO YOU ASSIST THEM IN ABDUCTING ROYALTY BUT NOW YOU'RE EVEN PLEADING FOR FORGIVENESS ON THEIR BEHALF DO YOU REALLY WISH TO DIE, MASA?
ONLY YOU!!
IF IT'S YOU!!
ONLY YOU CAN SURPASS THE LL CHA-KUN, SUPPRESS THE DEBAUCH NOBLES AND THOSE SLY COURTIERS TO BECOME THE TRUE [KUN]!! TAMAUR!!
THEY ARE WEAK.
PLEASE SHOW THEM MERCY
...DON'T FOOL YOURSELF I AM NO LONGER KING ASK THESE THINGS OF HYUNG-NIM

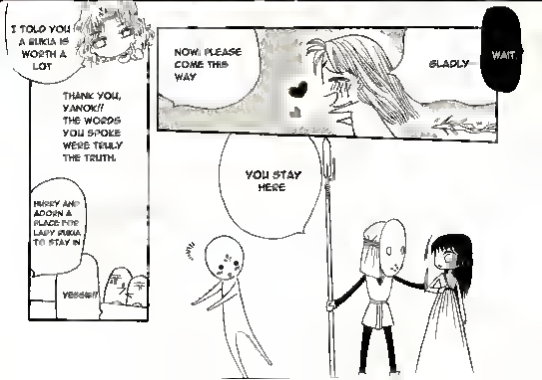
...ARE YOU TRULY GOING TO ABANDON US? US, HARU, AND EVEN THAT YOUNG LADY...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHEN DID I SAY I WOULD ABANDON HARU AND THE OTHERS?
THEY CANNOT KILL HARU.
EH?

MY NAME IS HARU SHIN I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL SORTS OF SITUATIONS IN ALL SORTS OF WORLDS BUT THIS RIDICULOUS SITUATION IS A FIRST!!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS!!
LADY RUCIA, LADY RUCIA.
GIVE US YOUR BLESSING...
PLEASE BLESS US, LADY RUCIA.
THE BLESSING OF THE GREAT SPIRIT KING!!

IT'S REALLY A RUKIA.
LET'S NOT GET TOO EXCITED CAN A YOUNG GIRL LIKE THIS REALLY BE OF HELP?
BUT A RUKIA IS A RUKIA!! IT IS THE WILL OF THE SPIRIT KING
IT IS THE GRACE OF THE TREE GOD! THE SPIRIT KING HAS NOT ABANDONED OUR KANTARA TRIBE!
THE WILL OF THE SPIRIT KING EH... WE SHALL SEE
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, WE WON'T NEED THE HELP FROM FAIRU AFTER ALL! GOOD!! VERY GOOD!!

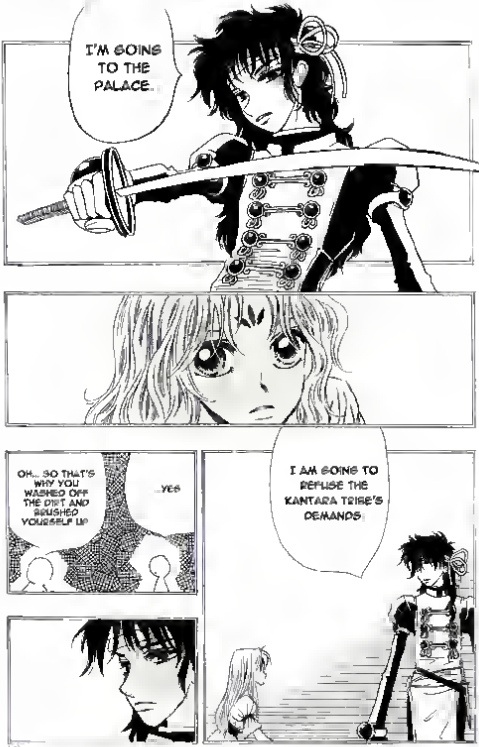
AH?
에엣 누구야?
PLEASE FORGIVE OUR IGNORANCE, KIN OF THE SPIRIT KING -


THE [HEAD] OF THE KANTARA TRIBE, ANGOR, IS HONORED TO MEET A RUKIA.
HOW COULD THIS BE!!!
SFX: SCENE FLOATS BEFORE THEIR EYES


I TOLD YOU A RUKIA IS WORTH A LOT
THANK YOU, YANOK!! THE WORDS YOU SPOKE WERE TRULY THE TRUTH.
HURRY AND ADORN A PLACE FOR LADY RUKIA TO STAY IN.
YESSIR!!
NOW, PLEASE COME THIS WAY
GLADLY
WAIT
YOU STAY HERE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SHE'S WITH ME SO LET HER GO!
S-SIR...
THAT SLAVE CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE
LADY RUKIA, YOU MAY LEAVE BY YOURSELF.
WHAT!?
A PROMISE MADE WITH YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE!
MIU IS MY YOUNGER SISTER! HOW CAN I JUST LEAVE HER AND GO BY MYSELF!?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
THIS IS RETRIBUTION.
THE PRINCE OF PAIRU HAS RENEGED ON HIS SIDE OF THE PROMISE
115

WE WILL FULFILL OUR SIDE OF THE PROMISE BY BEHEADING HER.
RIGHT. NOW.
WHAT!?


I'M GOING TO THE PALACE.
OH... SO THAT'S WHY YOU WASHED OFF THE DIRT AND BRUSHED YOURSELF UP.
...YES
I AM GOING TO REFUSE THE KANTARA TRIBE'S DEMANDS.

AND I WILL ALSO RESCUE YOU GUYS WITHOUT FAIL.
...WAIT FOR ME.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT SUCH A PROMISE.
MIRU IS MY YOUNGER SISTER AND I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO HURT HER!
Slither

LET MY
SISTER
GO!!!

PLEASE WITHDRAW YOUR ANGER!

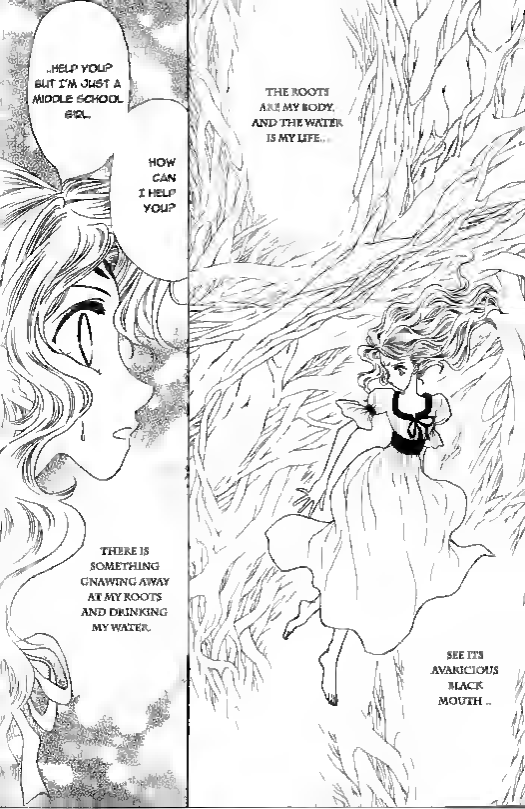
KIN OF THE SPIRIT KING

KYAAAK!!
WHAT IS THIS!!
...I AM THE ROOTS OF THE SPIRIT KING...

...I HAVE LONG AWAITED YOU, MY SISTER...

W-WHAT!! A TALKING TREE? WHERE DID YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR FROM!?
WHO ARE YOU!?
DO NOT BE AFRAID, MY SISTER...
I HAVE AWAITED YOU
I AM BUT A SINGLE STRAND OF THE SPIRIT KING THE SPIRIT TARA.

SPIRIT TARA?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. BUT PLEASE SEND ME BACK!! MY YOUNGER SISTER IS IN DANGER!
WORRY NOT MY SISTER
MY SISTER HEH MI DEOKNEUN EOPSEUNI
SO YOUR SISTER IS SAFE.
TARA IN THE FUTURE WILL DO JUST FINE.
I WAS CREATED TO PROTECT MY OWN MIND.
THIS STORY IS FOR MIND AND HERA

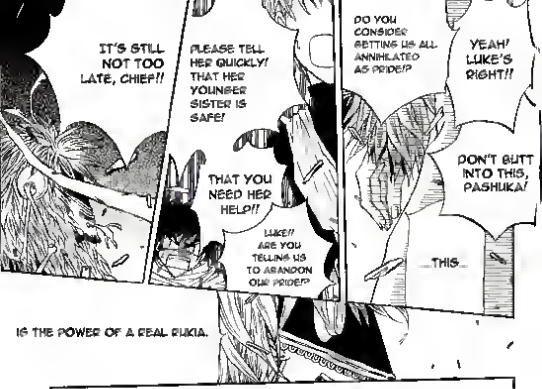

..HELP YOU? BUT I'M JUST A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
THERE IS SOMETHING GNAWING AWAY AT MY ROOTS AND DRINKING MY WATER.
THE ROOTS ARE MY BODY, AND THE WATER IS MY LIFE...
SEE IT'S AVARICIOUS BLACK MOUTH ..

W-WHAT IS THAT!?
...IT IS THE SHADOW OF THE SPIRIT KING...
S-62058! TARA! WHAT IS THAT DISGUSTING AMOEBA!?

BUT IT'S A DISTORTED SHADOW.
...BLESS...
...TARA?
GIVE THE SPIRIT KING'S BLESSING TO THAT PITIFUL CREATURE...
MY SISTER, I ASK.
TARA?! TARA!!

TA...
MISS HARU!! STOP IT, PLEASE!!
FLASH

...LUKE-SAN!...?
NOBODY WILL HARM YOUR YOUNGER SISTER! PLEASE CEASE YOUR ANGER, MISS HARU!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!! ARE YOU TELLING US TO GIVE UP ON REVENGE, LUKE!?
phweeeeo
...WHAT'S WRONG...?
...WHY ARE YOU ANGRY...?
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TRY TO PROVOKE A RUKIA IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HONESTLY ASK HER FOR HELP? IF IT'S HER SHE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY LISTENED!!
YOU..!
LUKE!!


IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE, CHIEF!!
PLEASE TELL HER QUICKLY! THAT HER YOUNGER SISTER IS SAFE!
THAT YOU NEED HER HELP!!
LUKE!! ARE YOU TELLING US TO ABANDON OUR PRIDE!?
DO YOU CONSIDER GETTING US ALL ANNIHILATED AS PRIDE!?
YEAH! LUKE'S RIGHT!!
DON'T BUTT INTO THIS, RASHUKA!
THIS
IS THE POWER OF A REAL RUKIA.

KIN OF THE GREAT SPIRIT KING

RUMBLE
WE BOW OUR HEADS IN DEEP FORGIVENESS FOR THE CRIME OF BLASPHEMING AND DEFYING THE KIN OF THE SPIRIT KING, FATHER OF ALL. IT IS ALL DUE TO MY, THE CHIEF'S, INCOMPETENCE. PLEASE LEAVE MY TRIBE AND FAMILY ALONE AND PUNISH ME INSTEAD.
PLEASE DO NOT HARM YOUR OWN KIN ALONG WITH MINE! LADY KUKUI! IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR YOUNGEST SISTER CALLED MIRU! I BEG OF YOU!
...MIRU!
MIRU!!

HUH?
crumple
...WHUH?

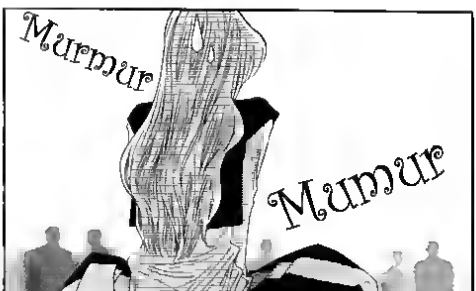
WHA-HUH?
MISS HARU! LOOK OUT!!!
KYAAAAAAAK
BOOM
A HOLE SUDDENLY APPEARED
A STRANGE SHAPE FAR...
IS IT A...?
AAK!!! OH MY GOD! WHAT IS THIS!!!
THE KAMIHARA ARE CURIOUSLY OBSERVING THE SHAPE

THIS IS NO JOKE
TO THINK THAT KID COULD DO THIS... ARE ALL RUKIA THIS MONSTROUS?
CRUMBLE
DROP DROP
...NOT ALL OF THEM.
YOU'VE SEEN A RUKIA?
...IT'S A LONG TIME AGO. ANYWAYS...

THIS REALLY IS POWER OF AN INCREDIBLE MAGNITUDE.

AND NOW...
I'M BEING WORSHIPPED
..AS A HUMAN BULL-DOZER.
SIGH!
PLEASE UNCLOG THE WELL IN OUR YARD!
AND REPAIR THE DIKE DAMAGED IN OUR FIELD!
THESE PEOPLE...
AM I SOME KIND OF SUPERMAN!!!?
OH? LOOK!
IT'S THE LADY RUKIA!
I HEARD SHE SMASHED A BOULDER AS BIG AS A HOUSE IN ONE TRY?
I HEARD THAT SHE SENT A ROCK MOUNTAIN FLYING...
WHICHEVER IT IS SHE'S A MIRACLE.
clap

Nod
SIGH... HOW DID THINGS BECOME LIKE THIS...
YOU MET LORD TARA?


Murmur
Mumur

C-CHIEF COULD THIS BE
OH, THAT'S RIGHT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF BUG ATTACHED TO THE ROOTS
R-ROOTS?
YES THE THING ATTACHED LOOKED LIKE A BUG
IT STRUCK ME THAT A TREE LORD HOWEVER MIRACULOUS IS STILL A TREE. IF A THING LIKE THAT IS ATTACHED A TORS WILL GET ATROPHIED AND BECOME ILL.

AH, SO I'M WONDERING
IF ANY CHANCE DO YOU HAVE
ANY PESTICIDE?
OR SOMETHING THAT
SPECIALIZES IN
SLUG KILLING LIKE CESCO
EH?
FORGIVE US,
BUT YOU SEEM TO BE
MISUNDERSTANDING
SOMETHING..
EEE
LADY RUKIA
WE CANNOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU ARE
SAYING..
WE CANNOT
SAY THAT YOU ARE
COMPLETELY WRONG
BUT
HOW DO WE PUT THIS..

THIS IS
LORD TARA
Just sitting
there...

IS THIS THE RIGHT FIGURE?
AND THERE IS NO LARGE TREE IN THIS AREA.
BUT THIS IS THE ONLY LORD TARA WE KNOW
THERE ARE ONLY SMALL FRUIT TREES.
I-IT WASN'T THIS TYPE OF WOODEN FIGURE!! THE LORD TARA THAT I SAW WAS A LARGE TREE!!
THIS IS THE PHARAOH THAT HAS PROTECTED OUR TRIBE GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.

THERE ARE NO TREES? THERE IS NO SPIRIT TARA?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!!
I CAN EVEN FEEL IT NOW AT MY FINGERTIPS
BUT WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY KNOW?

HEY~♡ LOOK MY WAY BEAUTIFUL LADY~ LOOK AT ME~ LOOK AT ME~
I DIDN'T EVEN CALL IT...BUT IT CAME OUT AGAIN...
stomp stomp stomp
YO~ LADY WHO'S SEXY EVEN FROM THE BACK~ I'M TELLING YOU TO LOOKIE THIS WAY?
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME!?
AH THIS FISH!

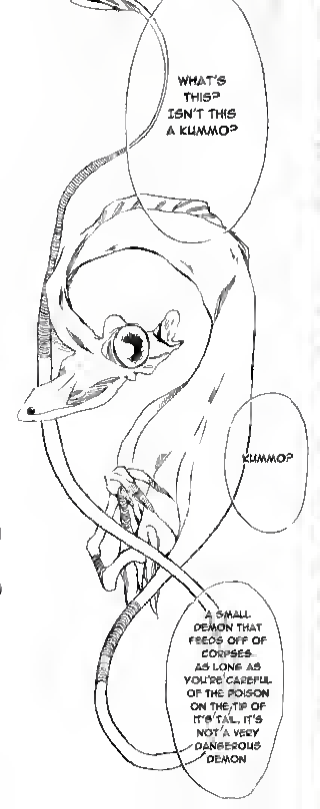
PLAY WITH ME~♡
GO DIE!
OH~ HOW COLD. DON'T BE LIKE THAT AND LET'S GET FRIENDLY~
NANI~ SOME GUYS LIKE ME ARE PRETTY SCARCE, YA KNOW!!
NANI?
NANI?
I'M STRONG. THE TRIBE'S BEST WARRIOR, AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, I'M RICH!
I'LL LET YOU LIVE LIKE A PRINCESS! IF IT'S YOU EVEN MARRIAGE IS FINE BY ME!
stride
stride

I WON'T EVEN TAKE CONCUBINES! I WON'T EVEN CHEAT! FOR REAL! I'LL SWEAR ON MY WARRIOR'S HONOR!!
YOU ONLY NEED TO BEAR ME THREE SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS.
PUNCH
H-HITTING ME ME WITH A BOULDER.. HOW TOUGH, BABY
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF ESCAPING
THEN YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP THOUGH I MAY NOT LOOK IT I'M A GUARD SO I WON'T JUST LET YOU GO
AND THIS IS THE ONLY VILLAGE IN THIS AREA.

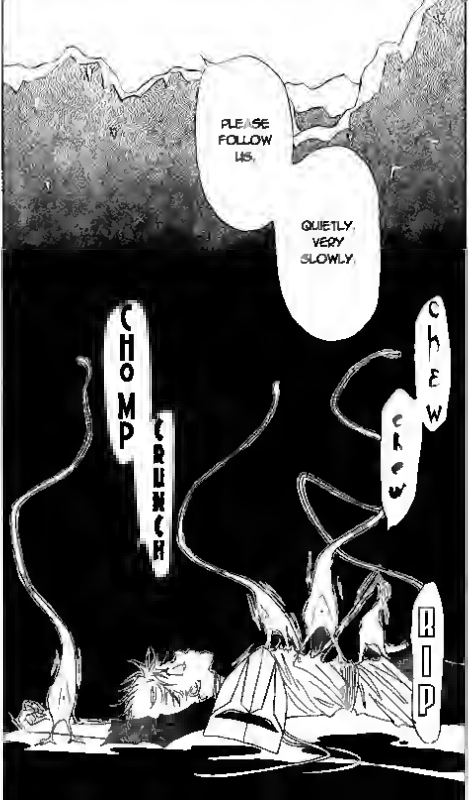
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S A LIE
IF YOU TRAVEL SOUTH OF HERE FOR A MONTH, YOU REACH THE GOLDEN LAND OF THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT
FOUR DAYS NORTH OF HERE IS PAIRU IF YOU GO EVEN FURTHER YOU REACH THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA, SUKAI-LAM.
IF YOU'RE SITTING HERE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

BUT THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PLACE YOU CAN ACTUALLY GO TO
MIRU!!
...YOU
...DON'T MOVE!
WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING ME AND TALKING WITH THAT BASTARD LUKE! YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, DO YOU? IS THAT IT?
EH?
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
SHOULD I HIT YOU ONE MORE TIME?
YES! HIT ONLY ON ME!!

Bang
KYAA AAA
PU

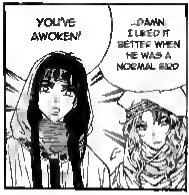

WHAT'S THIS? ISN'T THIS A KUMMO?
KUMMO?
A SMALL DEMON THAT FEEDS OFF OF CORPSES. AS LONG AS YOU'RE CAREFUL OF THE POISON ON THE TIP OF IT'S TAIL, IT'S NOT A VERY DANGEROUS DEMON
BUT THIS IS STRANGE. KUMMO ARE COWARDS, SO EVEN IF THERE IS FOOD, THEY DON'T COME ANYWHERE NEAR HUMAN DWELLINGS
UNLESS THEY FORM A PACK...

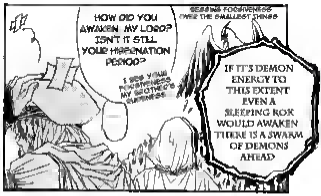
!!
THE FAITHFUL 200X
AND THE MAN UP FOR THE SWITCH IS?
LONE PAST
WHEN IS THE NEXT GUARD SHIFT?
...SHIT...
MISS MIZU THE SITUATION HAS BECOME RATHER URGENT


PLEASE FOLLOW US.
QUIETLY. VERY SLOWLY.
CHEW
CHEW
RIP
CHOMP
CRUNCH

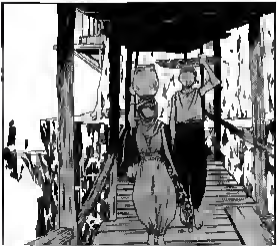
...HOW STRANGE.
THERE IS A MURKINESS IN THE AIR. IS SOMETHING HAPPENING?
CAN'T BE..
RATTLE
RATTLE
CREAK
FROM HERE ON OUT, IT'S KANTARA TERRITORY.
"CAN'T BE" IS NOT THE CASE!
SWOOP

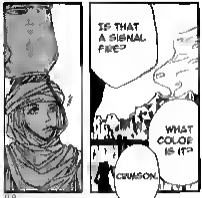
LORD YOKNA!!

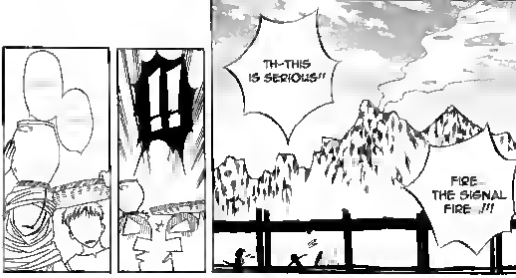

YOU'VE AWOKEN!
...DAMN. I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN HE WAS A NORMAL KID


HOW DID YOU AWAKEN, MY LORD? ISN'T IT STILL YOUR HIBERNATION PERIOD?
I SEE YOUR POWERFUL PRESENCE AWOKE MY BROTHER'S SUPERIORS
SENSING FOOLISHNESS FROM THE SMALLEST DEMONS
IF IT'S DEMON ENERGY TO THIS EXTENT EVEN A SLEEPING ROK WOULD AWAKEN THERE IS A SWARM OF DEMONS AHEAD

PARDON? DEMONS?
!!




IS THAT A SIGNAL FIRE?
WHAT COLOR IS IT?
CRIMSON


!!
TH-THIS IS SERIOUS!!
FIRE... THE SIGNAL FIRE...!!!

CHIEF! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!!
THE ENEMY THE GUARDS SENT UP A CRIMSON SIGNAL FIRE!

THE ENEMY HAS INVADED!!
WHAT?

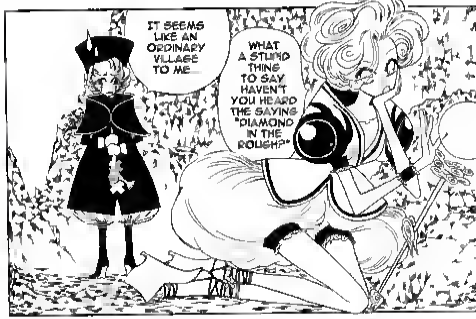
CHYAA-
AAAH
SLASH
DAMNIT!! WHY ARE THERE SO MANY OF THEM!!
LEAVE THE SMALL FRY AND RUN! WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!!
ARE THERE ALWAYS THIS MANY DEMONS?
NO! I'M NOT SAYING THAT THEY'RE FEW IN NUMBER BUT THEY DON'T CROWD IN LIKE THIS!!
DAMNIT!! THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN BEFORE!

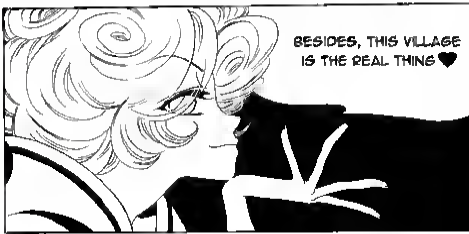
!!
shu shu shu shu
...DAMNIT WHEN DID THEY...
THEY'RE ENDLESS.

IT'S NOT JUST ONE OR TWO SPECIES. SO MANY OF THEM HAVE GATHERED. IT JUST SEEMS TOO ORGANIZED. DOESN'T IT?
MUSHUK. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH ORGANIZED DEMONS?
WHAT?
...THIS IS STRANGE.
THOSE SENTRIES! WHAT WERE THEY DOING!?
AS IF THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE...

OH ?
BUT IT'S TOO LATE ♥
THERE'S ONE WHO'S RATHER QUICK ON THE UPTAKE ♥

...LADY MINA IS THERE REALLY AN ELEMENTAL SPIRIT HERE?


IT SEEMS LIKE AN ORDINARY VILLAGE TO ME.
WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SAYING "DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH?"


BESIDES, THIS VILLAGE IS THE REAL THING ♥

AN ELEMENTAL SPIRIT IS AN ANCIENT SPIRIT AND THE SOURCE OF POWER AND LIFE♥ IT'S EVEN MORE VALUABLE THAN THOUSANDS OF SPIRIT STONES PUT TOGETHER♥
KANTARA IS A LAND GUARDED BY THE OLDEST OF THESE SPIRITS♥ I'VE BEEN EYING THAT VILLAGE FOR A WHILE NOW♥ AND NOW THAT THE POWER IS WEAKENED, IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE TO SNATCH THE ELEMENTAL SPIRIT AWAY♥ I'M REALLY LUCKY♥

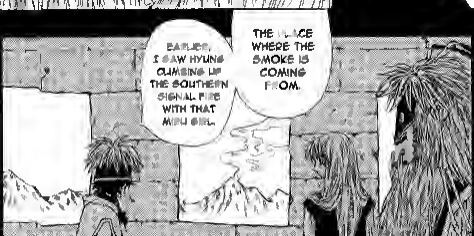
ALLOW ME TO ATTAIN THE ELEMENTAL SPIRIT!!
NOW - GO, MY CHILDREN!

A CRIMSON SIGNAL FIRE HAS BEEN SIGHTED!! THE ELDERLY AND WOMEN MUST EVACUATE! WARRIORS, TAKE UP YOUR ARMS AND GO INTO FORMATION!!
QUICKLY, BEFORE THE ENEMIES ARRIVE AT THE VILLAGE!!
CLANG CLANG CLANG
CHIEF! ALL THE WARRIORS HAVE GATHERED!
THE ONES WHO HAVE A STRONG ABILITY FOR TRANSFORMATION HAVE BEEN GATHERED SEPERATELY.
WELL DONE. BUT WHAT OF MUSHUK?
THAT IS HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE THIS MORNING
WHAT?
THE TRIBE'S GREATEST WARRIOR HAS ABANDONED HIS DUTY AT THIS TIME OF CRISIS?
HYLING HASN'T ABANDONED HIS DUTY!

*TRANSFORMATION – BEASTMEN'S ABILITY TO TRANSFORM FROM THEIR HUMANOID FORMS THE SHAPE THEY TAKEN ON DIFFERS FROM BETWEEN TRIBES AND INDIVIDUALS THEY ARE USUALLY MORE POWERFUL AND HAVE STRONGER ABILITIES THAN REGULAR HUMANS

PASHUKA!!
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? HURRY AND GO BACK TO THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER
I'LL FIGHT! NOW THAT I CAN TRANSFORM I WILL PROTECT THE VILLAGE ALONG WITH THE OTHER WARRIORS!
DON'T BE ABSURD! YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG!
HYLNS BECAME A WARRIOR WHEN HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD! I CAN DO IT TOO!
MUSHUK IS DIFFERENT! FIGHTING ISN'T THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO FOR THIS VILLAGE! GO BACK
NO! I WANT TO FIGHT TOO!
AH!
DON'T ACT LIKE A SPOILED CHILD!

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION? AN ENEMY HAS INVADED THE VILLAGE! BUT TO SEND A CHILD WITHOUT ANY EXPERIENCE OR SKILL TO THE FRONTLINES OF BATTLE?
DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME FURTHER AND GO BACK TO YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE!
A BATTLE ISN'T FOUGHT ALONE! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOUR INEXPERIENCE ENDANGERS OTHERS?
LADY FUKIA!
WHY HAVE YOU COME OUT? IT IS VERY DANGER-OUS
UM... BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN MIKU.
LADY MIKU?
YES. SHE'S NOT IN HER LODGINGS AND NOBODY'S SEEN HER. JUST WHERE...
...SHE'S PROBABLY WITH MY HYLNS.


EARLIER, I SAW HYUNG CLIMBING UP THE SOUTHERN SIGNAL FIRE WITH THAT MIRU GIRL.
THE PLACE WHERE THE SMOKE IS COMING FROM.

MIRU... IS AT THAT MOUNTAIN...?

KYAK
MIRU!!

SLASH
MU-
MUSHUK?
DAMNIT! THERE'S NO END TO THEM!!

IT'S NO GOOD LUKE!
TAKE CARE OF MIRU!
ALRIGHT

NOW! GO!!
OI! SEXY GIRL! SEE YA LATER AT THE VILLAGE!
MU-SHUK
!!!
MUSHUK! YOU...!
SHOVE
NOW YOU CREEPY BUGS

AHA
NOW THAT THERE'S NO ONE TO INTERRUPT...
STARKHA
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!!
WARD

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thank you.
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